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REPORT
OF THE
SELECTMEN, AUDITORS,
OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.
AND
Superintending School Committee,
OF THE
TOWN OF LONDONDERRY,
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING FEB. 29,
1856.

MANCHESTER:
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1856.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATE LIBRARY

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN.

Receipts.

The Treasurer is charged as follows, viz :

March 1, 1855.

To Balance Account,	\$1027 27	
Principal of Surplus Revenue Fund,	3348 00	
Principal of Literary Fund,	739 60	
List of Resident State, County, Town and School Taxes for the year 1855,	2162 27	
Non-resident list,	340 28	
Non-resident Highway do.,	196 52	
Cash received from State Literary Fund,	119 47	
received from State Railroad tax,	161 55	
received from County for support of County Poor,	419 55	
Interest received on Surplus Revenue Fund,	199 95	
Interest received on Literary Fund,	42 11	
Cash received for the use of Town House,	2 00	
received from the town of Amherst,	41 00	
received from the town of Raymond,	33 78	
received for Lumber,	50 00	
		\$8884 15

And credited as follows :

By paid outstanding orders,	\$301 00
State and County tax,	972 73
Schools,	1138 50
Teachers' Institute,	27 40
Building Committee No. 7,	500 00
Roads and Bridges,	120 25
Militia,	2 00
Abatements,	45 04
Non-resident, highway tax in labor,	80 13
Poor at Alms-House,	58 21
Poor other than Alms-House,	312 49
County Poor,	57 30
Building and repairs at Alms-House,	209 23

Town Officers,	275 57	
Miscellaneous Expenses,	208 42	
Principal of Surplus Revenue,	3348 00	
Principal of Literary Fund,	776 98	
Balance of account,	450 90	
	<hr/>	\$8884 15

Disbursements.

Paid State Tax,	\$365 40	
County Tax,	607 33	
	<hr/>	\$972 73
Outstanding Orders,		301 00

Schools.

Paid District No. 1,	\$154 65	
District No. 2,	167 25	
District No. 3,	76 36	
District No. 4,	101 95	
District No. 5,	110 77	
District No. 6,	57 14	
District No. 7,	125 02	
District No. 8,	158 06	
District No. 9,	105 10	
District No. 10,	18 92	
District No. 11,	63 28	
	<hr/>	1138 50
Paid Rockingham Teachers' Institute,	27 40	
Building Committee School District No. 7, tax assessed in 1854,	500 00	
	<hr/>	527 40

Repairs of Roads and Bridges.

Paid Wiley & Ripley, plank and timber,	6 20	
David Goodwin, plank and timber,	18 52	
Everett C. Kendall, plank,	7 07	
Henry C. March, do	3 02	
Francis D. Anderson, do	4 20	
L. Cutler, plank, (\$2.64 outstanding L. Cutler, plank and timber in 1853,)	6 00	
Alfred D. Greeley, timber,	9 12	
Silas Barker, work on Bridge,	2 00	
James Pettengill, work in 1854,	1 62	
R. Fellows, land damage and interest for road built in 1853,	62 50	
	<hr/>	\$120 25

Militia.

Paid Samuel Gilcreast,	\$1 00	
Thomas B. Platts,	1 00	
	<hr/>	\$ 2 00

Abatements.

Paid Collector's Lists for 1853-4	19 96	
Collector's Lists for 1855,	25 08	
	<hr/>	45 04

Nonresident Highway Tax, in Labor.

Paid Highway Receipts for 1854,	8 42	
Highway Receipts for 1855,	71 71	
	<hr/>	80 13

Building and Repairs at Alms Hhouse.

Paid Charles R. Frost, for labor,	42 81	
Wm. M. Boyce,	15 00	
H. J. Stafford, for hewing timber,	6 25	
J. S. Fletcher, for boards,	49 35	
Platts & Co., shingles and joist,	55 02	
Smith & Wallace, sash,	8 25	
W. Perkins, Lumber, &c.,	2 37	
Kimball, & Co., lead,	2 55	
Dennis & Varick, hard ware,	10 63	
Varick, Storm & Co., hardware, glass, paints, &c.,	17 00	
	<hr/>	209 23

Miscellaneous.

Paid S. H. Noyes, printing town accounts for 1854,	19 00	
N. P. Green, books and stationery,	13 65	
Wm. H. Fisk, books and stationery,	4 00	
Calvin Boyd, horse and expense to Weare on pauper business,	5 00	
Wm. Anderson, town lines,	1 50	
Samuel Dow, town lines,	75	
John A. Holmes, town lines,	2 88	
Wm. J. Campbell, return of births and deaths,	1 25	
Wm. H. Martin, return of births and deaths,	1 25	
West parish, interest,	8 40	
John A. Holmes, interest,	6 75	

Paid Town Treasurer, interest,	\$97 18
Calvin Boyd, collecting county money,	7 00
Assessment for insurance on almshouse,	1 80
Daniel G. Coburn, committee on grave- yard in 1853,	3 79
Express, carrying county tax,	1 00
S. C. Barker, grafting, \$4 50—outstanding.	
Arley Plummer, postage,	2 18
F. Chase, lumber for hearse-house,	13 58
F. Winch, teaming lumber,	1 00
Sawyer & Stevens, counsel,	3 00
D. & D. J. Clark, counsel,	1 00
J. B. Clarke, printing for school committee,	1 50
Tenney & Stevens, printing for committee,	2 00
Samuel Boyce, notifying the selectmen of dead body found,	1 00
Washington Perkins, expenses to Lou- don on pauper business,	6 46
Mason Boyd, wood for town house,	1 50
	<hr/>
	208 42

Town Officers.

Paid Wm. H. Martin, school committee, 1854,	14 00
John Dickey, do 1855,	20 00
Henry Nutter, do 1855,	15 00
Wm. H. Martin, do 1855,	15 00
Wm. A. Holmes, Town Cl'k and Selectman,	4 18
Robert C. Mack, Town Clerk,	5 00
William H. Martin, do do	5 00
David R. Leach, services as Selectman,	3 54
John A. Holmes, do do	4 86
Calvin Boyd, do do	58 98
John Dissmore, do do	36 83
W. Perkins, do do	14 64
Calvin Boyd, Select Clerk,	10 00
Calvin Boyd, Moderator,	5 00
Jonathan McAllaster, Treasurer,	15 00
John A. Holmes, Collector,	45 00
John A. Holmes, Auditor,	1 18
Arley Plumer, do	1 18
John Campbell, do	1 18
	<hr/>
	\$275 57
	<hr/>
	\$3880 27

CALVIN BOYD,
JOHN DISSMORE,
WASHINGTON PERKINS, } Selectmen.

REPORT OF OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

Poor at the Almshouse.

Paid Reuben White, supplies in 1854,	15 75	
Charles Chase, do	35 09	
Wm. H. Martin, medical attendance,	7 37	
	<hr/>	58 21
Charles Adams, \$325, outstanding,		

Poor not at the Almshouse.

Paid Mary Goodwin, for Amos Goodwin,	31 20	
Charles Chase, supplies furnished Wm. Pettengill,	9 83	
J. M. Usher, supplies for J. Nichols,	25 00	
Wm. J. Campbell, medical attendance,	5 00	
J. Willey, assistance to J. Nichols family,	4 50	
Joel Coburn, for wood for do do	50	
Wm. H. Martin, medical attendance to Hugh B. Boyce,	14 00	
Wm. H. Martin, medical attendance to E. F. Batchelder,	23 78	
E. A. Morse, nursing E. F. Batchelder,	23 78	
Town of Weare, support of Mrs. Howard,	19 95	
Town of Loudon, support of L. Hogg,	75 00	
N. H. Asylum, for Mary R. Parker,	93 78	
	<hr/>	312 49
Daniel Corning, Jr., support of D. Corning and wife \$50, outstanding.		

County Poor.

Paid Wm. J. Campbell, medical attendance to James Clark,	11 75	
Wm. H. Martin, medical attendance at Alms house,	3 75	
J. M. Usher, supplies for S. Bancroft,	15 76	

Paid J. M. Usher do do J. Everton,	14 04	
Wm. Anderson, wood for S. Bancroft,	12 00	
		<hr/> 57 30
		<hr/> \$4308 27

CALVIN BOYD,	}	Overseers of the Poor.
JOHN DISSMORE,		
WASHINGTON PERKINS,		

Londonderry, Feb. 29, 1856.

The undersigned. Auditors of the town of Londonderry, have examined the account of the selectmen of said town, ending this day, and find the same well kept, correctly cast, and properly vouched.

JOHN A. HOLMES,	}	Auditors.
ARLEY PLUMER,		
JOHN CAMPBELL,		

Invoice of Stock and Produce at the Alms-House
February 27, 1855, \$753 02

Invoice of the Stock and Produce at the Alms-house Feb. 27, 1856.

5½ Tons No. 1 Hay,	\$110 00	40 do Butter,	\$9 20
2 do do 2 do	32 00	50 do Lard,	6 50
2½ do do 3 do	25 00	Groceries,	1 00
1 Pair oxen,	100 00	Flour and Crackers,	1 00
4 Cows,	110 00	16 Bbl. Cider,	20 00
1 2 years old,	12 00	120 Bush. Potatoes,	40 00
1 Horse,	100 00	12 Bbls. russett apples,	18 00
3 Shoets,	18 00	60 bush No. 2 R. apples,	18 00
25 Bush. Corn,	27 50	4 do Onions,	3 00
15 do Oats,	7 50	275 lbs. No. 1 Pork,	33 00
6½ do Beans,	17 87	100 do Ham,	12 00
200 lbs. Beef,	16 00	1½ bush. Meal,	1 75
200 do Dried Apple,	8 00		
19 do Candles,	2 66		<hr/> \$751 98
40 do Fish,	2 00		

Alms-House in Account with the Town. Dr.

To Invoice, February 27, 1855,	\$753 02	
Paid Medical Attendance,	11 12	
Paid Charles Chase supplies,	35 09	
Pay of Superintendent,	325 00	
Balance R. White's Bill,	20 00	
	<hr/>	\$1144 23

Cr.

By Invoice February 27, 1856,	\$751 98	
Received of County for County Paupers,	368 25	
Boarding help on Shed,	18 00	
Work of Superintendent, drawing lumber and preparing ground for shed,	30 00	
	<hr/>	1168 23
		1144 23
		<hr/>
		\$24 00

Town of Londonderry. Dr.

1856.

Feb. 29, To John Gilcreast's Note, dated Sept. 9th, 1853, int. pd. to Mar. 9, '55,	\$212 00	
To West Parish Note, dated Sept. 1st, 1853, int. pd. to Sept. 1, '55,	140 00	
Outstanding orders for 1855-6,	382 14	
R. White, goods at Alms-House,	20 00	
	<hr/>	\$754 14

Cr.

By Balance in Treasury,	\$450 90	
	<hr/>	450 90
		\$ 303 24
Add Town House and Auburn Road Notes,		1619 67
		<hr/>
Whole amount of debt,		\$1922 91

CALVIN BOYD,
JOHN DISSMORE,
WASHINGTON PERKINS, } Selectmen.

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

In compliance with their legal duty, the Superintending School Committee beg leave to submit the following REPORT:

Each school has been visited, with one or two exceptions, at least twice during the term, and every teacher has received a certificate of approbation, as by law required from your Committee. We will first give a brief statement of the condition of individual schools.

DISTRICT No. 1.—The Summer School was taught by Miss Sarah A. Webster, of Derry. Miss W. possesses a large share of energy and perseverance, which she exhibits to good advantage in the school-room. Her labors must have been very arduous and exhausting in a school of seventy-two scholars—mostly small—with an average daily attendance of 57. This is the largest school, in point of numbers of any in town, and a good share of them somewhat backward; consequently it needs for its management a person thoroughly acquainted with all the minutiae of the school-room, as well in the most judicious methods of government as in those of instruction. The school when visited was not quite as still as was desirable, but considering the large number of scholars, and the small size of the house, we are not sure that many teachers would have done better than Miss Webster. The classes in Adams' and Colburn's arithmetics recited well, and evinced a good knowledge of their respective studies. We think there would have been a decided improvement in their appearance, had they not been so much in the habit of answering in concert. The teacher had taken great pains in penmanship, and some neat and handsome specimens were produced by the scholars. We see from the register that Mary E. Dana, and Julia D. Shipley, were neither absent nor tardy during the long term of thirteen and a half weeks.

The Winter Term was taught by Mr. John Dickey. Of this large school, consisting of sixty-nine scholars, considerably more than three fifths were under twelve years of age. It is not, therefore, expected, that the school as a whole, should be so far advanced as some others, but it is believed that there are individual scholars here, who, according to their ages and comparative amount of school privileges, would for good, deportment, diligence in study, and relative advancement, do credit to any of the ten schools in town. Mary D. Anderson, J. Fannie Holmes, Maria Moore and Mary E. Dana had so far respected the order of the school, as to refrain from whispering during the term.

DISTRICT No. 2.—The Summer school was in charge of Miss B. A. Morse, of Derry. Miss Morse has earned a good reputation as a successful and competent teacher. She possesses an amiable disposition, and quiet, unassuming manners. When the school was visited by the committee, everything appeared well arranged, and they regret the want of an

opportunity of reporting its progress, as it closed unexpectedly to the Committee and Teacher, on account of the sudden illness and death of her father. We find by the register that Martha B. Watts, and Lucy M. Boyd, were neither absent nor tardy.

The Winter school was commenced, and for a number of weeks conducted, by Mr. George H. Burns, of Hudson. It must be acknowledged that Mr. Burns has had some experience in the business, as he has taught some twenty schools in different places, and generally with a good degree of success. At different visits of the Committee, he seemed to be laboring with much zeal for the best interests of his scholars, and endeavoring to secure their good will without resorting to harsh measures. His method of government, which was rather of the persuasive kind, would answer quite well in some schools, but we think it proved a failure here. The "rod of correction" is indispensable, and should be applied with vigor and courage, if other and more gentle means fail in governing lawless and headstrong pupils. Mr. Burns continued to conduct the school some ten or twelve weeks when for reasons best known to himself he was induced to leave his post. The District subsequently employed Mr. Nutt, the teacher employed for the past season in District No. 4, who commenced his labors on the 18th ult. The school is now in successful operation.

DISTRICT No. 3.—This school, under the instruction of Miss Martha S. Hunt, of Charlestown, N. H., gave good evidence of the faithfulness of the teacher, and the diligence and obedience of the scholars. We have always found the scholars of this District to possess a very good degree of energy and ambition, to excel in their studies, and it is seldom that the Committee are called upon to report unfavorably of the school. We regret, however, to say that the condition of the school-house does not at all correspond with the character of the school. Ellen M. Barker was neither absent nor tardy.

The Winter Term was taught by Mr. Robert Clark, Windham. Mr. Clark sustained a good examination in all the branches usually taught and we think he had a strong desire to keep a good school. If he failed in the accomplishment of his desires, it was in the lack of a due exercise of authority, and the want of a proper discipline in the school-room. When the school was first visited, the small house was found crowded with 41 scholars, some of whom had to be furnished with chairs, and an extra desk. There was a good deal of "noise and confusion," but no symptoms of insubordination. There was a misunderstanding in relation to the time when the school should close, consequently, the Committee cannot state anything of its progress, or condition at that time.

DISTRICT No. 4.—Summer. This school, under the efficient management of Miss Elizabeth P. Sleeper, compared well with the very best in town. The Teacher was never "weary in well-doing" for the advancement of her school, and it is a pleasure to say, the pupils were uniformly industrious and orderly, evidently making their best efforts to co-operate with their teacher in all matters of mutual interest. Under such circumstances no school could fail to make rapid progress. All the classes bore good examinations. We would mention particularly the classes in Adams' and Colburn's Arithmetics, and a class in Morse's Geography; these were not inferior to any in our Summer Schools. Abby F. Greeley and Mary E. Greeley, are reported as having been neither absent nor tardy.

The Winter School was under the instruction of Mr. Wm. J. Nutt, of Nashua. Mr. Nutt had taught this school previously to this Winter, when his services were highly prized and justly appreciated. We think, during this term he has fully sustained his former well-earned reputation. He has an exceedingly happy faculty of imparting instruction to the mind of the scholar, and of securing almost perfect order, without being harsh or repulsive.—On the day of examination a goodly number of parents and friends were present, and listened with lively interest to the various recitations, and all seemed satisfied that the few hours thus spent were not lost. The Committee were convinced that in some branches more than ordinary improvement had been made, especially in reading, geography and arithmetic; and they would here remark, that in regard to the advancement in the two last branches, this school, both in the Summer and Winter terms, has been foremost, with, perhaps, one or two exceptions, of any in town; while in English Grammar it has fallen somewhat behind a few of its neighbors.—Will not the classes in that branch look well to their laurels next year?—Abby F. Greeley and Mary E. Greeley, who were neither absent nor tardy in the Summer were promptly there at nine o'clock every day in the Winter—an act of praiseworthy perseverance, and a good example for others to follow.

DISTRICT No. 5.—The Summer School, under the charge of Miss Sarah E. Lawrence, of Merrimack, made commendable progress. Miss Lawrence is a ready scholar and apt to teach, but a little more energy in the government of her school would be an improvement. The scholars, however, manifested a disposition of implicit obedience, and a desire to fulfil the requirements of the teacher. Whispering and loud study were not tolerated, and we are pleased to say that the larger portion of the school did not whisper during the last half of the term. Reading was well attended to, and the classes in that branch had improved rapidly, especially in enunciation.

The Winter School was taught by Mr. John H. Clark of Amherst, a student in Dartmouth College. Mr. Clark has had but little experience in teaching, yet he maintained in this school a rank highly creditable to the profession. We have found few teachers who displayed more activity and industry as well as firmness and decision of character in the discharge of their duties than Mr. Clark, and in no school have we found the scholars more orderly and attentive to their studies. The exercises at the examination were quite satisfactory, and showed that both teacher and scholars had taken a commendable interest in their respective duties.

DISTRICT No. 6.—There was only one term in this district in the Winter, taught in a room of a private dwelling house by Miss Emily C. White. There were but few scholars not exceeding fourteen on any one day's attendance; yet the punctuality manifested by all deserves special commendation. Robert Boyce and Robert Hall are reported not tardy nor absent during the eleven weeks of school. The scholars appeared orderly and attentive, and evinced a good degree of improvement and good training. Small as was this school the teacher was not delinquent in occupying well the time assigned as school hours, and at the close it was a satisfaction to the committee as well as to the district to feel that the winter's labor was not without profit.

DISTRICT No. 7.—The Summer School was under the instruction of Miss Almira J. Anderson. Miss A. possesses good qualifications for a teacher. She is forbearing and endowed with the happy faculty of pleasing, combined with a firmness of character sufficient to sustain good order in her school. At our first visit we noticed a disagreeable fault of the scholars—a habit of loud study which is too frequently met with, and which gives to a school an unfavorable appearance; but through the exertions of the teacher, the habit had been almost entirely abandoned at the close. All the classes acquitted themselves handsomely at the examination. We would mention particularly a worthy class of small scholars in Arithmetic, which for accuracy and distinctness had few superiors. The register shows a large average attendance and that Josephine Flanders was neither absent nor tardy. We are also pleased to learn that there were quite a number who had not whispered and were not tardy during the term, but unfortunately the list was mislaid and we are not able to give their names.

The Winter School was taught by Miss Sarah J. Gilcreast, who has ever sustained a good reputation as a scholar and teacher. She began with her usual determination to fulfil the duties upon which she had entered, and we are fully in the belief that she acted well her part in the accomplishment of her aims. At the first visit of the Committee, the school gave good evidence of the untiring industry of the teacher and every indication of success. Good order and attention to studies prevailed. The closing examination reflected much credit upon both teacher and scholars. We were glad to notice in this school a class that had made good proficiency in English Grammar.

DISTRICT No. 8.—The Summer School in this District was also taught by Miss Gilcreast. This is one of the largest and most advanced schools in town, but the house is contracted and uncomfortable, not large enough to accommodate more than two thirds of the number of scholars in the district. Notwithstanding these inconveniences, teacher and pupils were patient and persevering and performed faithfully their several duties. The exercises passed off admirably at the examination. All the classes answered with a promptness and confidence that bespoke a thorough knowledge of the ground passed over, but we claim for the class in English Grammar, the merit of having made more real proficiency than any other in town. The teacher reports that Mary Goodwin, Rhoda A. Parker, Emeline Morrison, Ruth M. Blodgett, David W. Parker, E. Clinton Chase, Belinda Morrison, Maria P. Clark, Clara Richardson, Martha J. Boyce, Laura Morse, Sarah M. Haselton, Lucretia J. Haselton, Georgiana M. Spalding and Eliza J. Barker, as not having whispered during the term, and the six first named as being neither absent nor tardy.

The Winter school was in charge of Mr. J. K. Upton of Wilmot, Mr. Upton has a good amount of intellectual and physical energy which added to a little more experience will enable him to become eminently useful as a teacher. The school rendered a good account of its winter's labors, more especially when we take into consideration the miserable condition of the house. We noticed a class in Colburn's Arithmetic, which could not be excelled. Writing had been somewhat attended to and considering the entire want of conveniences had considerably improved. Rhoda A. Barker, Laura Morse, Clara Richardson, Emeline and Belinda Morrison, had not whispered and Rhoda A. Barker, Thomas J. Hunter, D. W. Barker,

George P. Boyce and John Dow, are registered as being neither absent nor tardy.

DISTRICT No. 9.—Summer term. This school was taught by Miss Harriett S. Holmes. Although it was her first school, the committee are satisfied that her efforts were highly successful. The classes were judiciously arranged, the order good, and the exercises at the examination showed that the instruction had been systematic and thorough. The scholars were mostly small, there being but one over the age of fourteen, but we were glad to find that the elementary sounds of the letters, punctuation, abbreviations, &c., branches which are decidedly indispensable, and may be comprehended by almost the smallest scholars, had been carefully attended to. A good proportion of the school had made Colburn's Arithmetic a very profitable study. The register shows a very large average attendance, it being over 15 in a school of 17, and that James Patterson, a boy eight years of age had been neither absent nor tardy.

The Winter school here was under the care of Miss Eliza T. Rand, of Concord. Miss Rand was unwearied in her efforts for the advancement of the school. She brought to her work a kind disposition and a dignified deportment in the school room, which were productive of the most gratifying results. Some of the scholars in each class in reading had made *rapid* improvement, while all the arithmetic classes deserve much credit. This school during both the Summer and Winter terms, for diligence in study, orderly deportment and general interest, has ranked as one of our first schools. Where the Prudential Committee is judicious and careful in his selection of a good teacher and the parents cheerfully co-operate *with* that teacher, we are sure to find a good school. We are pleased to say, such has been the case here and at the examination of both terms a respectable number of parents and others honored the school and cheered the teacher with their presence. James Patterson, the persevering boy who was neither absent nor tardy in the Summer was equally prompt and punctual in the Winter.

DISTRICT No. 10.—(Part of No. 3, Derry.) The Summer school was taught by Miss. Sarah W. Ballou, and the Winter school by Mr. George T. Brickett; and both were seasonably and properly reported to the Committee.

DISTRICT No. 11.—Summer; taught by Miss Delia Annis. Miss Annis had never taught before but was well prepared in point of education and set about her work with a determination to do it faithfully. Although there were a great variety of reading books the teacher had so far interested her pupils in that branch that good improvement had been made; much attention having been given to the pauses and inflections. All the classes in Arithmetic appeared decidedly well, and showed that they had been thoroughly and correctly instructed. We noticed particularly a class of 6 small scholars extremely expert in the multiplication table, and two classes in Colburn's Arithmetic, one of which had gone through the book. Just three times as many visits were made by citizens during this term as were made in both terms last year—an encouraging fact. Nancy E. Hunttee was neither absent nor tardy.

The Winter term was taught by Rev. Abel Fletcher of Merrimack. The school presented a good appearance at its commencement. Instructions were thorough and *very* systematic,—good order maintained, and we would

also add in praise of this school, what we would be happy to say of all, that the inculcation of sound moral sentiments was made a part of each day's instruction.

Owing to a mistake as to the time of its close the Committee were not present at the examination, but from various reliable reports, we have reason to believe that the school was a profitable one, and that the teacher gave general satisfaction.

GENERAL REMARKS.

SCHOOL HOUSES.—In regard to school-houses, wherein the youth of our town are brought together and required to sit from hour to hour, both in summer's heat and winter's cold, the Committee rejoice to say that *some* improvement has actually been made. One new and elegant brick house has been erected, and liberally furnished, where before was an uncouth shell, most decidedly unfit for any kind of school purposes. The citizens of District No. 7 have now a house which in point of size, general convenience, and architectural attractive beauty is not equalled by any other in town. Commodious out-houses of neat and durable finish, which no building making any pretensions whatever to the nature of a school house should be without, have been constructed; the building is sufficiently high-posted so that not only an *endurable* but a *pure* and *healthy* atmosphere may be enjoyed by both teachers and pupils; each window is furnished with suitable blinds, which not only add much to the external beauty of the house, but are conducive to the general comfort of those within. There is also a clock above and in the rear of the teacher's desk which serves to regulate the exercises of the school-room and guide the teacher in his laborious duties. We would not be understood to say that it is a perfect model, but we are not inclined to find fault, and taken as a whole we repeat what we have already said that it is the very best in town and *one* of the best that in any county town has come within our notice. Its entire cost is about \$850.

So much has been done in No. 7. Does not a pressing sense of duty, economy, self-respect, and the urgent demands of society in regard to the intellectual wants of the rising generation call loudly upon the citizens of Districts No. 2, 3, 6, and 8, to go and do likewise?

TEXT BOOKS.—It is doubtless true that a child may learn to read from a *musty almanac* or a diverting *story book*, but it is equally true that he will learn with more facility, and vastly less disturbance to the school by learning from such books as are used by the rest of his class.

It has been said by Committees in former years that the variety of text books then used in our schools was far too large. Your present Committee found the same evil to prevail to an equal, if not greater extent, as may be shown from the fact that in *one school* we found as reading books, the Rhetorical Reader, four of Russell's series, three of Towns', and one of Tower's, making in all nine different classes in reading, whereas there should be but four, or at the most five! Other schools were in equally as bad a condition. For this growing evil the Committee have deemed it their duty to apply a remedy, so far as lay in their power; consequently they have thought fit to order an entire change in the reading books and geographies, and have also introduced a valuable and much needed work for new beginners in grammar. Instead of the heterogeneous medley, by

different authors, which had found their way, partly by stealth, into our schools as reading books, we have ordered "Sargent's Standard Series," a series which fully met the approbation of the Committee, as eminently adapted to the wants of the common school. In the place of Parley's, Mitchell's, and Smith's small geographies, and Morse's and Mitchell's large, all of which were previously used in the schools, Cornell's Primary Geography and Mitchell's Intermediate have been recommended. Although the Committee have not exercised their authority to the utmost extent of the law in *compelling* the immediate use of all the above-named books, yet they are gratified to find that the change has so far met the approval of parents, and citizens that the new reading books have been used *exclusively* the past Winter in every school but two, and we believe to some extent in all; the Geographies have also been used in many schools; and we have yet to learn that where any book recommended in the change has been used it has not given *complete satisfaction*.

SCHOOLS.—We cannot but speak in terms of admiration of the character of our Summer Schools. Although some of the teachers were but little experienced in the business, they were generally judicious, faithful and efficient in the discharge of their duties.

The Winter schools were not characterized by so much general success. The committee were called into not less than four different schools to quell difficulties which had arisen between teacher and scholar and threatened to destroy the peace and usefulness of the school. This fact alone is worthy the deepest consideration of those who believe that our schools are really trees of knowledge, from whence their children may acquire that which will prove a blessing to them, and an honor to the community in which they live, for certainly no school can be productive of its proper results, when rent and distracted by internal broils, better befitting a den of *savage ruffians*, than a school where the sons and daughters of a christian people are expected to be taught the arts and sciences of civilized life! The evil of which we speak—the petty brawl and open resistance to the reasonable orders of the teacher in the school-room, is not one of *moderate* magnitude, but threatens ere long, if not severely checked, to become a deadly scourge, preying upon the very vitals of our district schools. The question naturally arises, wherein lies the remedy? We are confident that by far the safest and most effective remedy is that which may be applied around the *domestic fireside*. We mean that influence which parents should exert over their children at home, by example or training in favor of good order, lawful subordination, and a cheerful compliance with the just demands of the teacher, and all the reasonable regulations of the school-room. If parents would but aim at making such an influence *felt* by their children—if they would cheer and encourage the teacher, think kindly of him, speak charitably of his faults, labor *for* him and endeavor to harmonize *with* him, we think there would be little need of calling in the authorities to vindicate the supremacy of the law, or the dignity of the school. But if parents will persist in taking an opposite course, and from the moment a teacher commences his labors, watch most carefully for some little errors in practice, some little defects in government, or some slight derelictions of duty in any respect, and hold them up to the view of their children, and at the same time exaggerate them a hundred fold, while the really valuable traits the teacher may possess, are kept entirely out of

sight or at the most presented partially and unfairly, then indeed will our schools become—not what they are intended to be, nurseries of good order, sound discipline, and the most elevated virtue, but hotbeds of the rankest anarchy, the deadliest malice, and the most malignant passions.

REGULARITY OF ATTENDANCE.—It is certainly a favorable fact, that while last year only four scholars, both in the Summer and Winter terms were registered as being neither absent nor tardy, this year we are able to report more than twenty ! Yet this number is far too small in an aggregate of over 500 scholars—only about one in twenty-five who even *attend* school as they ought. It is truly deplorable, that so many should be robbed, or rather that they should rob themselves, of so large a share of those benefits which are intended to be bestowed equally upon all.

TEACHERS.—The Committee feel called upon to notice a pernicious error in the practice of some teachers, which is that of licensing whole classes to recite simultaneously at any and all their recitations so that the committee were unable in some instances to discover whether the class, except a few individuals, had made any improvement. This practice we do not hesitate at once to condemn, as tending at the same time to pamper those more easy of apprehension and positively discourage those of less active minds. The committee requested the several teachers to suppress this mode of reciting at the outset, but at the examination some schools had so far persisted in their old ways that when a question was presented to the class, the visitors whoever they might be were obliged to endure either a *simultaneous yell* or else a *running fire of answers*, commencing with the scholar who had some knowledge of his lesson, quickly followed, of course, by A, B and C, etc., who were *grossly ignorant* but, who would fain make others believe by their promptness that they knew as much as the first speaker. Such a course, to express it in very easy terms, is sadly out of taste, exceedingly annoying to visitors and unprofitable to the school.

A large number of teachers report among the text-books one called ‘*Adam’s Arithmetic*.’ This must be a very ancient edition unless they mean *Adams*. We hope in *teaching* they look more carefully to the apostrophe.

MORALS.—Committees in previous years have reported that “the moral condition of our schools was deplorably bad.” We fear that in this respect many of them have not yet made much improvement. One teacher remarks that “this school has some boys in it (not all) who are *distinguished* for profanity in their intercourse with their school-mates;” and we are happily mistaken if nearly all our schools are not contaminated to a greater or less extent by those who are addicted to this wicked and detestable vice. The work of reformation in this respect *should* be done by parents at home but when it is not, as is often the case, teachers neglect an important and sacred duty when they overlook these vicious practices, for they should not be ignorant of the fact that the statutes of our state make it incumbent upon them as a duty not only to instruct those under their care in regard to their intellectual wants but “diligently to impress upon their minds the principles of piety and justice and all other virtues which are the ornament and support of human society.”

JOHN DICKEY,	} Superintending School
HENRY NUTTER,	
W. H. MARTIN,	
	} Committee
	} of Londonderry.

Londonderry, March, 1856.

TABLE.

Prudential Committees.

	Prudential Committees.										
	EDWARD P. ELA, ALBERT TENNEY, THOMAS PENNOCK, BENJAMIN F. WHARF, JAMES W. RATRAY, FREEMAN CORNING, GEORGE W. BOYCE, JAMES ADAMS, JOSEPH UPTON, LEWIS A. MCGREGOR, SAMUEL ANNIS.										
Length of Winter School, in weeks.	13½	11½									
Length of Summer School, in weeks.	10½	8½									
Amount of Board contributed.											
Fuel and Repairs.	15 0										
Board.											
Wages per month—Winter Teacher.	20 00	20 00									
Wages per month—Summer Teacher.	8 00	9 00	7 00								
Amount of School Money.	154 65	167 25	76 36								
Average number in Winter.	57 49	34 16	31								
Average number in Summer.	57 31	31	31								
Whole number over 4 years of age attending school two weeks.	89 57	38 27	38 27								
No. of the Districts,	1 89	57 38	25 32								

Interest Surplus Revenue,
Income from Literary Fund,

\$100 00 | Whole amount of School Money,
125 00 | Being an excess over last year of

\$1138 50
130 26